

THE PENINSULA

H O T E L S

30 March 2010

HISTORY OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI HOTELS, LIMITED, ASIA'S OLDEST LUXURY HOTEL GROUP, CHRONICLED IN NEW BOOK

“Beyond Hospitality” Traces the History of the Iconic Peninsula Hotels Brand and Its Forebears

Published to celebrate the grand opening of [The Peninsula Shanghai](#) in March 2010, “Beyond Hospitality” tells the story of [The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited](#) – parent company of [The Peninsula Hotels](#) - and its long and illustrious history as not only Asia’s oldest hotel group, but one of the oldest hotel groups in the world, with roots in Shanghai going back to 1858, and in Hong Kong back to 1865.

Written by eminent Shanghai historian Peter Hibbard MBE and fully illustrated throughout with photos both antique and modern, fascinating old advertisements, menus, luggage labels and more from years gone by, this hardback coffee table book explores the company's storied heritage from its earliest days up until today, when it made a historic return to Shanghai after an absence of over 50 years.

In 1923, the union of two pioneering hotel companies, The Shanghai Hotels, Limited and The Hongkong Hotels Company, Limited heralded the beginning of a new era for hotel keeping and hospitality in the Far East – and indeed the world.

The new company, The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited assumed control of the largest and finest collection of hotels in Hong Kong and China. In China, these included the legendary Astor House, Palace and Kalee Hotels in Shanghai and the Grand Hotel des Wagons-Lits in Beijing - and in Hong Kong, the Hongkong Hotel, the Repulse Bay Hotel and the Peak Hotel. New developments soon followed with the creation of two legendary hotels - the Majestic Hotel in Shanghai in 1924, and [The Peninsula Hong Kong](#) in 1928.

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“Beyond Hospitality” also details the involvement of the Kadoorie family, the majority shareholders of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited. During the 1880s, Ellis and Elly Kadoorie - two scions of a wealthy Baghdad family of merchants - travelled east, settling in Hong Kong and Shanghai respectively, where they made their fortunes and rendered the Kadoorie name synonymous as much for their generosity towards those less fortunate as for the riches they accumulated.

In 1891 Elly Kadoorie purchased some 25 shares in The Hongkong Hotels Company, Limited, setting in motion the Kadoorie family’s long-standing relationship with of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, which continues to this day, with majority shareholder and current Chairman, The Hon Sir Michael Kadoorie at the helm of the group.

“The story of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels involves much more than just hospitality – it is a story of vision, perseverance, great events and extraordinary individuals”, said Sir Michael. “From the earliest days of the Astor House Hotel in Shanghai in the 1850s, our Company has always looked ahead, with confidence in the future of the cities and countries where we have been made welcome and, in turn, in which we have made ourselves, and our guests, at home. My family’s own motto is “Adhere and Prosper”, and I would like to think that this also reflects the spirit of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels”.

The Peninsula Shanghai is the ninth member of the hotel group, which today has properties extending across Asia ([Hong Kong](#), [Tokyo](#), [Bangkok](#), [Beijing](#), [Manila](#), [Shanghai](#)) and North America ([New York](#), [Chicago](#) and [Beverly Hills](#)), and the company is yet again making history as it plans to open its first hotel in Europe - in [Paris](#) in 2012.

“Beyond Hospitality” is available for purchase at all Peninsula Hotels, priced at USD 50 per copy.

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HISTORY OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI HOTELS, LIMITED, ASIA'S OLDEST LUXURY HOTEL GROUP, CHRONICLED IN NEW BOOK - 3

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About the author :

With a background in urban planning, sociology and tourism studies, British-born Peter Hibbard MBE has lived in China since 1985, based in Shanghai where he researches China's tourism history and Shanghai's urban development since the 1840s, lectures and writes for a wide range of publications. His books include “Odyssey's Beijing and Shanghai: China's Hottest Cities”, “The Bund Shanghai : China Faces West” and “Peace at The Cathay”. He is president of the Royal Asiatic Society China in Shanghai.

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Incorporated in 1866 and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (00045), HSH is a holding company whose subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entity are engaged in the ownership and management of prestigious hotel, commercial and residential properties in key destinations in Asia, the USA and Europe. The hotel portfolio of the Group comprises The Peninsula Hong Kong, The Peninsula Shanghai, The Peninsula Beijing, The Peninsula New York, The Peninsula Chicago, The Peninsula Beverly Hills, The Peninsula Tokyo, The Peninsula Bangkok, The Peninsula Manila and The Peninsula Paris (opening in 2012). The property portfolio of the Group includes The Repulse Bay Complex, The Peak Tower and The Peak Tramways, St. John's Building, The Landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Thai Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand.

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